

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2003

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 24, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 522

Introduced by Assembly Member Diaz

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Firebaugh)

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chavez, Correa, Goldberg, Koretz,
Levine, Lieber, Longville, Pavley, and Reyes)*

(Coauthors: Senators Cedillo and Romero)

February 18, 2003

An act to add Section 1227 to the Government Code, relating to
Matriculas Consular.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 522, as amended, Diaz. Local officers and employees: identity
of individuals.

Existing law provides for the issuance of driver's licenses and
identification cards by the Department of Motor Vehicles, as specified.

This bill would require every city, county, and city and county officer
or employee to accept for purposes of personal identification an
identification card issued by the Mexican Consulate Office, to the
extent permitted by federal law, the same as a driver's license or
identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles, or
Matricula Consular, except when possession of a valid driver's license
is required by law. The bill would also set forth the findings and
declarations of the Legislature in this regard.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) Mexican Consular identification cards, or Matriculas
4 Consular, are state-of-the-art and contain various security
5 safeguards designed to prevent falsification.

6 (b) *The Mexican Consular identification card does not change*
7 *the immigration status of the holder and does not entitle the user*
8 *to obtain government benefits.*

9 (c) Various large metropolitan and small cities and counties,
10 including the City of Los Angeles, the County of Los Angeles, the
11 City and County of San Francisco, the City of Oakland, the City
12 of Watsonville, the City of Oxnard, the City of South Lake Tahoe,
13 the City of Sutter Creek, the County of Santa Clara, the County of
14 Ventura, the County of Sacramento, and the County of Santa Cruz,
15 currently accept the Matricula Consular as an official
16 identification card.

17 ~~(e)~~

18 (d) *The acceptance of the Matricula Consular can assist law*
19 *enforcement departments and agencies process foreign nationals*
20 *who are detainees more quickly and efficiently.*

21 (e) *There are currently 28 California sheriff departments, 89*
22 *police departments, 6 district attorneys, and 3 state agencies that*
23 *recognize the Matricula Consular as a valid form of identification.*

24 (f) Various financial institutions, such as Wells Fargo Bank,
25 Bank of America, California Credit Union, and California Union
26 Bank, accept the Matricula Consular as well; and since November
27 2001, Mexican immigrants have opened new bank accounts and
28 deposited over fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) in banks
29 throughout California.

30 SEC. 2. Section 1227 is added to the Government Code, to
31 read:

32 1227. To the extent permitted by federal law, every city,
33 county, and city and county officer or employee shall accept for
34 purposes of personal identification an identification card issued by
35 the Mexican Consulate Office, or Matricula Consular, as

- 1 equivalent to a driver's license or identification card issued by the
- 2 Department of Motor Vehicles, except when possession of a valid
- 3 driver's license is required by law.

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